

Atlanta Area Association of Independent Schools

Joint Admissions Testing Program

ADMISSIONS TO SCHOOLS PARTICIPATING IN THE JOINT ADMISSIONS TESTING PROGRAM

The Galloway School

Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School

Trinity School

The Heiskell School

Pace Academy

Wesleyan School

Whitefield Academy

The Lovett School

St. Martin's Episcopal School

The Westminster Schools

Seeking admission to schools can be a rather complex process. The following general admissions guidelines are offered in order to clarify the process.

While time spent presently in the admissions process is not insignificant, it has been decidedly shortened because of the JATP schools acceptance of one report on each student from a participating JATP psychological center. If the parents desire a more detailed report, or have questions about their child's test results, an appointment may be scheduled with the psychologist for further interpretation. The fee for this service is to be determined by the testing psychologist.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO JATP SCHOOLS

The psychological report is only one component of an array of factors which determine acceptance to JATP schools. While it can be very beneficial, it is based on a one-time interview of approximately 45 to 75 minutes on a one-to-one basis on a particular day in a student's life. Mental ability tests of any kind — individual or group — measure convergent thinking (where there is generally only one acceptable answer), not divergent thinking (which leads to multiple answers and is often exhibited by highly creative children). Recent research on intelligence suggests that there are many kinds of intelligence and types of learning styles. Hence reports from the JATP testing must be kept in perspective. Many subjective variables which affect the scores can be present in young children. Moreover, it has appeared to the schools that high scores on the tests are not necessarily commensurate with later school success. *If high test scores appear to be a result of obvious coaching, tutoring, or retesting, this will be reported to the schools to which the child is applying and will be taken into consideration in the admissions process.*

Over the years the individual school's observation of a student has been found to be the most highly predictive factor of the student's success in that school. Each school has its own guidelines for admissions, including observations, interviews, and past school performances.

The JATP schools are aware that with so many qualified applicants, some students will not be admitted just because space is not available. Some disappointments are inevitable — for students, parents, and schools. It is important to keep the admissions process and decisions in perspective. Children can and do learn in varied educational environments; parents play a vital part in providing their children opportunities and what is even more important, role-modeling.

The JATP schools hope that this information will be useful to you as parents of an applicant this year. *Please remember to mail in the JATP application to the psychologist to schedule an appointment for testing. The psychologists will not schedule the appointment over the phone without the application.*